

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a customer of DIRECTV, I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me local TV channels via satellite in my market area, which I currently do not receive.

Broadband access to the Internet is not available to me at this time. If the merger is approved, the new company will be able to provide me with affordable high-speed Internet access via satellite along with the other 40 million American households who do not have affordable high-speed Internet access now.

I live in rural Idaho, and no one seems to find issue with the fact I have only one choice for local phone service . . . So, why not have one satellite television provider that can better meet the needs of rural America? I believe the Echostar/Hughes merger would do just that.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Terry Loyd  
5 Arena Road  
Garden Valley, ID 83622